

Reactive Nitrogen Subcommittee

November 7, 2008 Notes from Meeting

Members

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Kristen H P (Chair)
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Chuck R S
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3 committee goals:

1. Research needs for BMPs and control.
2. Strategies for increasing adoption rates. What are the “no brainers?” What can we share with our farmers to address these issues?
3. Implications of the INC recommendations and what the subcommittee can do to address the agricultural implications of these.

Questions about ammonia volatilization.

Some overlap with the Integrated N Committee. Look at recommendations coming out of the INC. Also what are the cost implications associated with these recommendations. So, science + economics. Also look the whole farm system (holistic approach). Look at emission factors from a whole farm standpoint (rather than just one field/crop/etc.). Also look at the basis for INC recommendations—are these bases valid?

Nutrient trading opportunities. That is a possible option. Also, a tax, other controls, etc.

Identify opportunities for an integrated strategy that is both environmental/resource driven and economically feasible.

Provide defensible data to guide and inform the recommendations and unintended consequences associated with the INC work.

Final INC report should be completed by Sept. 2009, but public can view this in Jan. 2009.

Example: What are the best strategies with no-till relative to needs for manure incorporation.

What technologies do we need to develop.

What are short term and long term strategies / solutions?

Short-term: INC recommendations and response.

Long-term: What research is needed—now; in the future?

Ammonia emissions example from poultry piles: what are implications of having them uncovered vs. covered.

What is an appropriate cost share rate to increase the adoption of various practices and activities?

Bryan needs the subcommittee circulate INC docs to the TF and esp. the subcommittee and then evaluate whether there are other things that need to be considered and reported back to the INC.

3 – 4 Major Issues:

Livestock manure storage and handling.

Land application of all fertilizers (rate, timing, placement, etc.)

NOx emissions from biofuels (not sure if this is appropriate for this subcommittee)

What are the reactive N implications from biofuels—compatible goals?

What are the economics associated with low-input crops (alternatives)?

And what are the downstream effects associated with these types of decisions?

Discussion about risk, N application as “insurance,” etc.

Bill P: Discussion about N fertilizer distribution issues (fall application stressed because it is available). Cannot separate the discussion about application from the infrastructure of N delivery.

So, address barriers to adoption of new technology, etc.?